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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

MICRO NR MED

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(9 - 15 December 1977)

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[redacted]

This compilation is prepared weekly by the Office of Regional and Political Analysis. Inquiries may be directed to [redacted] *of the International Issues Division,* [redacted] 3.5(c)

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LATIN AMERICA

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-- Chilean President Pinochet is so incensed over US co-sponsorship of a UN resolution condemning Chile for human rights violations that he has asked the Foreign Ministry to assess the consequences of a Chilean withdrawal from the UN and its affiliated international organizations. *The fact that Cuba was among the nations that joined the US in co-sponsoring the resolution caused particular consternation in Santiago. Foreign Ministry officials believe that it would be a serious mistake for Chile to withdraw from the UN, however, and they are trying to calm the President. The government, meanwhile, has not implemented plans reportedly made earlier this year to lift the state of siege on December 11.* 3.3(b)(1)

-- Argentine President Videla has taken steps to eliminate some of the excesses in the government's counter-subversion program. Several officers involved in kidnaping and extortion have been transferred, and the chief of the federal police has issued orders forbidding illegal detentions and directing that those arrested be turned over to the courts. The orders specify that in no case are prisoners to "disappear." *The effectiveness of such directives in bringing about improvements in the Argentine situation remains questionable. On December 8, some fifteen persons associated with the "mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" were taken into custody by persons describing themselves as security officers. The whereabouts of those arrested remain unknown. Navy Commander Massera has told Ambassador Castro that the Army is probably responsible, but Army Chief of Staff Viola has implied that the Navy is to blame. Members of the mothers' group have been pressing the government to account for their missing relatives.*

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